Authentication and access control in a management console program for managing services in a computer network

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Inventor: CHANG APRIL S (US); LARGE ANDREW R (US); SNYDER ALAN (US)
Applicant: SUN MICROSYSTEMS INC (US)
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Abstract of **EP0977399**

A method and apparatus of securing access to a service manager for the administration of services residing on multiple service host computers from an administration server computer is described. A user identifier, such as a user name, and a corresponding password are provided to the service manager. The user identifier is associated with a system administrator having administrative access to the services. The service manager authenticates the user by comparing the user identifier and password against a list of user identifiers and corresponding passwords stored in a persistent memory. A list of services to which the system administrator has administrative access is derived from the data in persistent memory. When the system administrator makes a request to administer one or more services from the list of services, the administrator's access control is verified at the service host computers on which the requested services reside by examining access control data in the persistent memory. Management files are transferred from the service host computers to the administration server computer thereby facilitating manipulation of the management files utilizing the service manager.

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